

# Warren SENTINEL

Volume 64, Issue 9

F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming

March 4, 2005

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## SUCCESS FOR TEAM RIDER

Erynn Rider congratulates her dad, Master Sgt. Eric Rider, 90th Space Wing Safety, after he was inducted as a senior non-commissioned officer during a promotion ceremony Monday at the Trail's End Club. His wife, Staff Sgt. Charlene Rider, 90th Space Wing Judge Advocate office, also offers her congratulations. Eight new staff sergeants, seven new technical sergeants, six new master sergeants, and two new senior master sergeants were honored at the promotion ceremony.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey

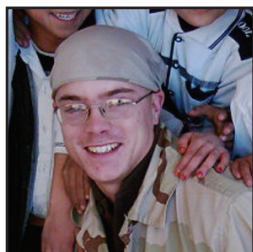
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# Commentary

## How do you handle adversity?

**Col. Alvin Kemmet**

*90th Mission Support Group commander*

For those who already know me, you know I speak from the heart. I find this easier to do when it's something I really believe in day-in and day-out. The focus of my thoughts center around the adversity in our lives, whether personal or work related, and how it affects those around us. We're all affected by that "black cloud" – that's right, the one that seems to rain on our parade at the most inopportune times. Some call it "Murphy's Law", while others address this phenomenon as just plain "bad luck."

Webster's Dictionary defines adversity as, "Great affliction or hardship; a misfortune." While Webster may be the authority on the English language, I would tend to disagree since every definition I came across never mentions anything about "lessons learned," "growing," "mentoring," etc.

Let me briefly share one story with you to illustrate my point. As a brand new second lieutenant in the Air Force, a veteran of only four months, and a recent graduate of MMII ICBM Launch Officer Initial Qualification Training (IQT), it was time for me to show off my stuff in front of my new peers and wing leadership at Ellsworth Air Force Base. I studied very hard during my Unit Qualification Training, just like at IQT, and wanted to show the "Highly Qualified" rating I received on my evaluation at Vandenberg AFB was fully warranted.

The big day for my evaluation came and went with disappointment and total humiliation. You guessed it, my commander and I "busted," as in unqualified to perform our mission. I thought this couldn't be true, my country was in the middle of the Cold War, and the 44th Strategic Missile Wing needed me! Well, it was true, and I was forced to relive every error with every phone call received from my fellow IQT classmates, each one asking, "Are you ready to go on alert tomorrow?" I was the only individual in my IQT class who didn't pass the evaluation. If this wasn't sobering enough, the director of

operations (now known as the OG/CC), Col. Walt Weiss, said, "if you want to stay in the Air Force, you had better pass the recheck."

Every time I walked down the hallway, I felt as if each person I came in contact with knew every error I made in excruciating detail. I felt I had let myself down, the wing down, and most importantly, my family down.

After feeling the lowest I had ever felt in my entire life, and the thought of what might be a very short military career, in walks 1st Lieutenant Ken Lavin, my remedial training instructor. Lieutenant Lavin was in his early thirties, not prior service, but a former schoolteacher who received a calling to serve his country in a military capacity. Lieutenant Lavin proceeded to give me some of the best advice I ever received to handle adversity in any form. He explained how you could choose to use adversity to destroy you by getting you down, and keeping you down, or you could choose to use it to your advantage.

How can there be anything good about an evaluation bust, I thought. I'm still sopping wet from the "black cloud" that rained on my evaluation results.

Lieutenant Lavin went on to say, "Yes, everyone does know who Lieutenant Kemmet is because of the evaluation bust, but those same people will be watching to see what type of person he is inside, and how well he responds to the adversity in his life." I have never forgotten our conversation that day. Over the past 23 years, his words have guided me through every adversity I've faced.

It's so easy to throw in the towel and say, "Woe is me," and look for sympathy when times get tough. I firmly believe taking adversity and using it to your advantage goes a long way in building the foundation of your ability to handle whatever life has to offer.

Now some would say, "Easier said than done." I couldn't agree more, but it can be

**Adversity, page 3**



## Hoops Shots

Well, there's no rest for the weary. Just as we completed one inspection, the FIGHT'S ON for the next. We're now into our Combat Capability Assessment from our friends at 20th Air Force. We've had a great run with inspections lately going back to last year's readiness and compliance inspections. So, I have every confidence we'll hear similar accolades at the outbrief next week.

During our "breather" between inspections I did get a chance to do some visiting. Headed out to the Alpha Missile Alert Facility in our **Mighty 319th Missile Squadron**. Getting on site was a bit tricky as the crew was reacting to an elevator shaft alarm situation. I'll bet ace facility manager **Staff Sgt. Stephen Marsh** had wished he'd brought out a warmer coat as we waited in the wind on the access road. It did, however, give us a chance to realize that we had both served together at Minot though in different wings. We had another connection too – we lost one of our sites to a fire and he was part of the civil engineer team that helped make things safe and livable afterwards. That's one of the cool things about the Air Force – it's a small world. **Airman 1st Class Farah Ramsammy** was there providing support as a stellar chef. She was probably surprised when I put her through her paces when it came to the food code, labeling, sanitation and thermometer calibration. Of course, she wouldn't know that I had worked my way through college in part as a short order cook. Needless to say, everything was spotless and spot on. I am very proud of this young enlisted leader who always has a great attitude, performs to the highest degree and still finds time off duty to volunteer to help others. Well done!

Downstairs pulling alert were 1st **Lts. Dan Rubalcaba and Steve Engler**. Both had everything squared away in great condition. Taking us there and back again were **Capt. Brian Finnerty, 1st Lt. Mar-**

**cus Jackson and Airman 1st Class Andrew Gibson, 37th Helicopter Flight**. They got me caught up on how our recaptures went from a helicopter point of view, how our newest sensor is working out and how they qualified for the Guardian Challenge team – something about losing the least amount of water in the bucket because it was frozen solid. In any event, it was a pleasure to visit with all these Mighty Warriors from our 90th Operations Group.

I'd also like to salute **1st Lt. Jason Hamman**, one of our Mighty Defenders. Thanks to him and his team's ingenuity and hustle they've been able to provide our hard working security forces warriors with thousands of packs, frames, repair kits, pouches and more for full-up rucks. Oh and did I mention he's saving more than \$285 thousand in the process?! An amazing feat and just shows what a little hard work and hustle can do to make things better. Huah!!

Most of you have probably heard we had a rollover this week. We seem to keep learning the same lessons in all of these. Seatbelts and stowing your gear saves lives and we're fortunate both driver and co-driver are OK. Speeding and overcorrection are almost always the main culprits. Remember to slow down when road conditions change such as ice, snow, blinding sunlight or even going around a curve. And also remember that once you start leaving the road it's almost always best to let up on the gas, don't brake and continue in the direction you are headed. In most every case, the winner between the driver and a ditch is most often the ditch. We can afford to tow a car out of a field or replace some signs or fence posts but we can't afford the risk of overcorrecting only to have a rollover or even worse. Follow your training, keep your wits about you and watch out for each other and we should never have another rollover event.

-- Col. Hoops

### —Warren— SENTINEL

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Articles are due to Public Affairs,

Building 250, room 201, by 4:30 p.m. Thursday the week before publication. Classified ads are due by 11 a.m. Tuesday the week of publication.

Classified ads can also be dropped off or mailed to Wyoming Newspapers, Inc., 202 E. 18th St., by 1 p.m. Tuesday the week of publication. Articles and ads that don't meet these deadlines won't be considered for that week's issue. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by 90th Space Wing Public Affairs of F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., of Air Force Space Command. All photographs are Air Force pho-

tographs unless otherwise indicated. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

Direct questions or comments to the SENTINEL at 773-3381 or e-mail at [Sentinel@warren.af.mil](mailto:Sentinel@warren.af.mil).

Published by:

Wyoming Newspapers, Inc.  
202 E. 18th St., Cheyenne, WY,  
82005  
(307) 632-5666  
[Sentinel@warren.af.mil](mailto:Sentinel@warren.af.mil)

# Commentary

THE

CIVILIAN PAVILION

**Matt Cox**  
*Visual Information*

Laramie County Head Start called Warren Home for 20 years prior to Sept. 11, 2001.

But, just like for the rest of America, everything changed after that.

"Security (at Warren) got so tight immediately after 9/11 that it became increasingly challenging for us to get our staff and students on and off base," said Head Start family community involvement coordinator Damion Aldana. "It was a tough decision for us to leave."

Because of the coactive relationship between the Air Force and Head Start, the national federally funded pre-kindergarten program, the decision to relocate in October 2001 wasn't an easy one to make.

Kim Amen, Head Start director, said Warren was a "phenomenal host" to the program, its staff and its students during its tenure here.

"Because of our 20-year relation-

ship with the base, it was definitely different not being there anymore," she said. "Had 9/11 not happened, we'd probably still be there."

Head Start, once housed in building 65 at Warren – now 20 AF Headquarters – currently operates out of the old Johnson Junior High School building, 711 Warren Ave., in south Cheyenne. It rents a portion of the building from the main tenant, the First Assembly of God Church.

Because of the drastic increase in rent Head Start now has to pay -- \$4,500 a month compared to a \$1 a month it paid on base – program administrators had to figure out a way to make up the difference without sacrificing its service. They accomplished this by boosting enrollment from 212 students to 308 students, making the program eligible for additional government funding. "Nothing has suffered as a consequence," said Mrs. Amen. "Like I said, Warren took care of us."

The gregarious relationship shared between Head Start and Warren

continued despite the move.

Members of the 400th Missile Squadron pitched in to help at Head Start's inaugural Father Factor Festival a few years ago; an event that recognized and celebrated one of Head Start's parent-oriented offshoot programs.

"We maintain a strong relationship with the Warren community and we still serve many base families and kids," said Mrs. Amen. She added that Head Start currently has four Warren members on its staff.

Head Start began in 1965 and is exactly what its name implies: It prepares pre-school aged children for kindergarten and beyond.

The program is geared for low-income, single parents and families with parents who are enrolled in school, to help them and their children succeed.

Laramie County Head Start teaches state-mandated curriculum for pre-kindergarten children – ages 3 to 5 – and for younger kids and their parents – prenatal to age 3 – called

Early Head Start. "Early Head Start is specifically for the parent. We teach them the life-skills they will need to help them and their children succeed."

In comparison to Early Head Start, curriculum for pre-school students is more traditional.

"We focus on language, literacy, math, science, social skills, physical development and health," Mrs. Amen said. "With that in mind, we know we can't make a difference unless we also work with the families."

As a comprehensive child development program, Head Start teachers meet with parents to develop a "custom curriculum" for their children before the kids ever step foot in a Head Start classroom. This collaboration between parents and teachers is a key ingredient for the students' success. "We are essentially a parent-driven program," said Mr. Aldana.

Mrs. Amen encourages interested Warren families to call Head Start at 634-5829 for more information age and income requirements.

## Adversity, from page 2

done. How? You must be able to take a time out and do a little bit of self-reflecting. Will you let this incident hold you down, or will you look at ways to adjust and move on with your life?

The key to moving on is being able to step away from the situation and evaluate yourself in an unemotional manner. This especially applies to supervisors as more people are watching you as a direct result of your position. Instead of screaming and yelling when something goes wrong in your

organization, you can choose to accept the fact you cannot change what has already happened, ascertain why the event happened in the first place, put procedures in place to fix the problem, and lastly, evaluate the fixes you incorporated in your unit.

I've also learned there is a mentoring component to this approach as well, whether you realize it is being done or not. The individuals around you, be it your loved ones, peers, subordinates, friends, or bosses, are

all directly impacted by the way you deal with your particular situation. By watching the way you handle the "black cloud" in a positive manner, they have been inadvertently mentored by you as a direct result of your actions. They've learned the best way to handle the same or similar situation if it ever happens to them. I've seen it done on this base on numerous occasions, and have been mentored by Airmen who didn't know I was even watching.

There is a silver lining in every

"black cloud." Because of Lieutenant Lavin, I learned to find that silver lining, pick myself up, and move forward. During that same assignment, I went on to become an evaluator, a SAC missile combat crew competition competitor, and a senior instructor crew commander.

All of us need to reach out to those who face adversity. Mentor our folks and help them use the experience to their advantage just like Lieutenant Ken Lavin did for me 23 years ago.

## PEACE KEEPERS By A1C Nathaniel Turner, 90MMXS and A1C Richard Oliver, 90MMXS





# AFAF kick-off

## Campaign support keeps with tradition of Airmen helping Airmen

**Lt. Gen. Dan Leaf**  
*Air Force Space Command*  
*vice commander*

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — One of the strongest traditions in our Air Force is that of Airmen helping Airmen. From airman basic to general, we are a family of air and space professionals working together to accomplish our goals — one of which is providing the quality of life our family members deserve.

Spring marks the time of year where we have a great opportunity to help take care of our own — airmen, NCOs, officers, retirees, spouses and children. It is the beginning of the annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

Difficult and often unexpected situations will arise and Air Force people may find themselves in need of financial help. The Air Force Assistance Fund provides direct support to people in need through four Air Force charities: the Air Force Aid

Society, the Air Force Enlisted Foundation Inc., the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

These charities have supported active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retirees, surviving spouses, and their families for more than 30 years. They exist only to help support you and your Air Force family members.

Each year we ask campaign keyworkers to ensure every Airman and civilian employee in their duty section is contacted. We don't force people to contribute, we don't need to. The AFAF is the type of program that sells itself. Once people understand how what we get back is so much more than what we give, they are willing to take part.

The 2004 campaign saw Air Force Space Command people contribute \$300,416 to the AFAF, with 100 percent of the donations going to the charities. In return, AFSPC people received more than



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Bergmann

**AFAF unit project officer Tech. Sgt. Eva Madrid completes the tax receipt portion of Lt. Gen. Leaf's donation form.**

\$1.1 million in assistance from the Air Force Aid Society alone.

We need to get the word out. This is not just a good cause; it's a cause that provides a lot of return for our Airmen. To help bring this point home, I'd like to try and put a face on this year's campaign. If you have been helped by an AFAF charity, please

contact your local public affairs office and get their help to tell your story of support.

Airmen work hard for their money, whether it's during a sandy deployment or while holding down the fort here at home. We appreciate that fact, but still we feel this well-deserving cause is worth a moment of your time. Hopefully you will decide it

merits a donation. Large or small, the money you give will help make sure this critical resource is there in case your family needs support.

I urge you to personally make a difference by contributing to the Air Force Assistance Fund. Let's make this year's AFAF campaign the best ever. Thanks for all you do.

**For more information about Warren's AFAF campaign, call Maj. Andrew Hugg at 773-2286**

6 by 5



# Extended deployments affect 200

**Master Sgt. David Byron**  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force officials are designating some positions in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility as 365-day extended deployments in an effort to provide stability and allow for long-term relationship building with host governments.

The new tour lengths will affect only about 200 key and critical operational and joint task force staff positions, officials said. People in the remaining positions will serve in the current air and space expeditionary force structure.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directed the extended tours in response to requests from joint task force commanders seeking continuity in selected positions, often where the local culture requires more time to establish meaningful ties with local people and host governments.

These key positions are an integral part of a combatant commander's mission and the AEF structure. No new positions will be created; they will be converted from current AEF slots.

"The positions will span a wide spectrum of Air Force career fields," said Lt. Col. James Davis, Air Force

assignment classification, retirements and separation policy chief. "There will be a good mix of enlisted and officer positions, mainly mid-level and up."

Air Force Personnel Center officials will take the lead in finding people to fill most of the slots. Air Force Senior Leader Management Office officials will handle requirements for colonel and chief master sergeant positions, he said.

Colonel Davis said selections would be made during the course of the upcoming spring and summer assignment cycles with all being in place by August 2005.

Volunteers will be sought first, he said. If there are not enough volunteers, AFPC officials will use modified short-tour criteria to fill the slots. For colonels, AFSLMO officials will assign them through major command channels.

Although these deployments may appear to be remote tours, they are not permanent change-of-station moves. It is not a goal to establish a permanent U.S. military presence in the region, and there is no Status of Forces Agreement in place covering permanent assignments, officials said. The positions will fall under the category of "indeterminate length" temporary duty assignments. That category will allow for certain

*"Although we're asking some of our Airmen to deploy for a longer period of time to meet mission needs, we're constantly looking for the best options for our (Airmen) and their families."*

— Lt. Col. James Davis, Air Force Assignment Classification, Retirements and Separation Policy Chief

entitlements to apply that are not available for standard temporary assignments.

"Although we can't consider them regular short-tour assignments, they will be treated as such," Colonel Davis said. "Lieutenant colonels and below who complete the tours will have priority for follow-on assignments, just like any other one-year tour." Colonels completing the tours will be assigned according to normal colonel assignment procedures.

Family members also may be eligible for standard short-tour benefits.

Storage of household goods is one benefit offered to Airmen serving temporary assignments of 180 days or longer. There are possible options for moving the Airman's family while deployed; the availability and extent of those options will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Airmen may also have the option

of returning to their former assignment, if there is a suitable vacancy, officials said.

There will be career benefits for Airmen serving these extended temporary assignments. Airmen serving the 365-day TDYs will receive short-tour credit and be exempt from AEF or other contingency deployments for six months following their return home. Most of the joint task force positions will earn joint-duty credit depending on actual length of rotation, officials said.

"Our expectation is that all of the joint task force positions will get full joint credit," Colonel Davis said. "We are currently validating the positions working this with the Joint Staff and (secretary of defense). Although we're asking some of our Airmen to deploy for a longer period of time to meet mission needs, we're constantly looking for the best options for our (Airmen) and their families."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon

## A BLESSED FEAST

At the National Prayer Luncheon, held at the Trail's End Club Feb. 25, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gerald Henry, 90th Space Wing chaplain, Col. Jodi Bliss, 90th Maintenance Group commander, Col. Alvin Kemmet, 90th Mission Support Group commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Scott Turner, Air Force Space Command chaplain's assistant, serve themselves lunch. The guest speaker at the event was Chaplain (Col.) Richard Hartwell, Air Force Space Command chaplain.



Briefs

Sentinel correction

The Feb. 25 Sentinel incorrectly identified Sam Amberson on the cover of the paper. Mr. Amberson works for the 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron, Rivet Mile.

Building 232 renovations

Offices in Building 232 are scheduled to be relocated between March 28 and April 15 due to HVAC renovation. For specific details, look for articles in future Sentinel issues.

CAC PIN reset station

Have you forgotten your personal identification number for your military common access card? If so, you no longer have to wait in line at the Military Personnel Flight to have your PIN reset.

Effective immediately, all members may establish a new PIN by using the CAC PIN reset work station located at the 90th Communications Squadron Help Desk in Building 333. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. For further assistance, contact the MPF Customer Service Office at 773-1845.

New Refuse Contractor

Warren will have a new refuse contractor as of April 1. All trash containers in base housing will be picked up and replaced with contractor-owned trash containers. Base residents will be required to thoroughly clean the inside of trash containers before they will be replaced. For more information, call Mr. Ornelaz at 773-6101.

BRAC Update

Base Realignment and Closure 2005 news, including the current timeline, speeches and Congressional testimony, is available online at <http://www.defenselink.mil/brac/>.

No installation closure or realignment list currently exists.

The official closure and realignment list will not be available until on or about May 16.

Women changing America  
Celebrate National Women's History Month

2nd Lt. Sheila Brown  
Women's History Month  
chairperson

March is National Women's History Month and this year's theme is "Women Change America."

The celebration of National Women's History Month began in 1978 as "Women's History Week," initiated by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, and was later approved through a Joint Congressional Resolution. According to the National Women's History Project Organization, Women's History Week started as an effective way to bring about more equality and awareness in the classrooms through the sponsorship of essay contests and other such activities. The response was overwhelming and in 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress for the entire month of March in dedication of women's history.

It is the goal of everyone celebrating to fully honor the vital contributions women have made to the American way of life. Whether we are paying tribute to important women in the arts, entertainment, the sciences, education and politics, or showing our utmost respect and appreciation



Illustration by Bob Goode, AFNEWS/NSPD

to our mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters and aunts, we must remember their roles in shaping our country and our lives as we

know it. Throughout the month of March, remember and commemorate the achievements of women both historically and presently.

Women's History Month schedule of events

March 16 - Come to Dorm Escape at 6 p.m. to enjoy pizza, a movie and a cookie swap.

March 17 - The Women's History Month three-mile run will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Freedom Hall lobby.

March 18 - Enjoy a Women's History story time 11 a.m. at the base library.

March 24 - Women's History Luncheon 11:30 at the Trail's End Club.

March 30 - Brown Bag Lunch 11 a.m. at the Heritage Museum



Construction Corner

It's still the winter season; please take extra precautions to ensure that your trash doesn't become wind fodder. All trash should be in plastic bags weighing no more than 40 pounds, placed inside the trash containers provided, and the lid secured with the elastic strap attached. Large or bulky items may be disposed in the dumpster located behind the Airman's Attic, Building 347. Place your container curbside for disposal no earlier than the evening before your assigned pickup day, and return the container to its storage area no later than the evening of pickup day. Should your trash container be misplaced, it is your responsibility to locate it.

Keep Warren looking good by picking up and properly disposing of items seen blowing around or laying in your housing areas, common areas, playgrounds, streets, etc.

Trash collection days are scheduled as followed: Capehart (MCP) on Mondays, Bricks on Tuesdays, Carlin Heights on Thursdays, Atlas on Fridays.

If you have any questions, call the Housing Management Office at 773-1840.



# Meet Warren's GC code controllers

## Preparations underway to bring home Blanchard

Courtesy of Guardian Challenge  
Codes Controllers team  
90th Operations Group

Members of the 90th Operations Group Codes Controllers team do not need command influence to drive them to excel at this year's Guardian Challenge scheduled to be held May 2 through 6 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., — they consider it a mandate.

Team members include: returning competitor Capt. Alex Chumpitaz, Capt. Jeremiah Iacarella and Tech. Sgt. Timothy Whetsell.

Once the Combat Capability Assessment is complete March 11, preparations for Guardian Challenge will commence. In charge of training the team are Capt. Nina Syngajewski and two-time trainer Tech. Sgt. Randy Knox.

They will lead a regimen of studying, practicing and undergoing training simulations to ensure that their competitors are as prepared as possible.

"This team possesses the best coders in the ICBM force and we expect a lot out of them. They will be ready when the time comes," said Sergeant Knox.

Sergeant Whetsell's passion for reading technical orders will help the team advance to victory, according to Captain Chumpitaz.

The team wants to help Warren bring back the coveted Blanchard Trophy, last won in 1996, according to team members.

Team members wish to thank their fellow code controllers for the support they have and continue to provide them throughout the Guardian Challenge experience.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon

## Travel card info lost; no evidence of fraud, misuse

Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press  
Service

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2005** - About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said today.

The General Services Administration and Bank of America notified DoD that GSA "SmartPay" travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts and there has been

no evidence of fraud or misuse of the accounts.

Bank of America is sending letters to affected employees. "Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual card holders has been lost, and it is possible that that information has been compromised, though we don't believe that that is the case," said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer.

The U.S. Secret Service is conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Officials said that although there has been no

evidence of criminal activity, release of details on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

"Indications right now are that it is an accidental event," McKay said. "The bank has been monitoring the accounts involved from the onset, and to date there has been no indication of fraudulent activity."

The information is personal cardholder information -- names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers -- on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late December. GSA notified DoD on Jan. 19. McKay said the delay was necessary to

protect the integrity of the investigation.

"The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the situation," McKay said. "They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose. If (cardholders) have any questions, they can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them."

McKay added that consumers should always keep an eye on any credit accounts they have. "It's always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly state-

ments (and) dispute any charges they may question, and also it's important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report," she said.

Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is (800) 493-8444. Cardholders who notice irregularities in their accounts should call the Bank of America at the 800 number printed on the back of their cards, McKay said. "If you are an affected cardholder, you may contact Bank of America for information on obtaining a free credit report," she added.

### IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN AND THE TAX CLINIC IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

**When:** Now through April 15, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (By appointment only)

**Where:** Basement of Building 232 (Pass and ID building), look for the signs once you enter the building

**Who:** Active duty military and their dependents, reservists on Title 10 orders and their dependents, retirees and their dependents

**Cost:** There is no charge for this service

**Contact:** 773-5TAX (5829)



# Bravery

## Warren Airman receives Purple Heart

Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey

Public affairs

It began like any other day. He'd driven this route dozens of times before. But this time was different. Without warning, he heard the loud, distinct shots of gunfire zooming around him. It was clear: anti-Iraqi insurgents were attacking his convoy.

On Dec. 31, 2004, Airman 1st Class Christopher Murphy, 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was driving in a convoy that was approaching a checkpoint near Freedom Army Base north of Mosul, Iraq. Insurgents began shooting from the right and in front of him. In all the confusion, nearby soldiers mistakenly took the convoy for the enemy and attacked it.

Airman Murphy's truck and the lead truck in front of him driven by Senior Airman Kirk Wilkerson, 90 LRS, became disabled.

"The whole sky was getting lit up," Airman Wilkerson said. "It looked like 'Star Wars.'"

A 50-caliber round made a hole the size of a Frisbee in the truck's door just above Airman Murphy's head. In an instant, a piece of shrapnel shot into his lip.

"All of the sudden my face went numb. I was bleeding everywhere," said the 20-year-old Minnesota native. "It was pretty scary. I was just hoping to see my kid again."

"I heard over the radio, Murphy's hit! Murphy's hit! I started thinking about his wife and son," said Airman Wilkerson.

When the attack was over, Airman Murphy was taken to Freedom where he received medical care.

"[I thought to myself] thank God he was still up, awake and alive," said Airman Wilkerson. "It



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Christopher Murphy received the Purple Heart during a deployment to Iraq.

could have been a lot worse."

Deployed since July 13, 2004, this was the first time he saw fire. He'd been lucky before; the convoy had been attacked with improvised explosive devices a few times during his days off.

For his wound, Airman Murphy was awarded the Purple Heart in Iraq. On Feb. 24, he received special recognition from his commander, Maj. John Stublar at the 90 LRS Highbay.

"He did exactly what he was supposed to do after he was hit. He kept control of his truck," said Airman Wilkerson.

Airman Murphy has no regrets

about what happened; in fact, he said he wouldn't mind being deployed to Iraq again.

For now, he is glad to be back home with his wife Jenny, raising their young son Timothy who was just 3 months old when he left.

He saved the shrapnel that wounded him and carries it with him in his wallet.

"People like to see it," he said. "I'm proud of it."

The scar above his lip is the only visible sign of the war he's been through.

The day that began like any other will be forever ingrained in his memory.

### PURPLE HEART FACTS

THE PURPLE HEART, THE WORLD'S OLDEST MILITARY DECORATION, IS AWARDED TO SERVICEMEMBERS WHO ARE KILLED OR WOUNDED IN ANY ACTION AGAINST AN ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE WOUND FOR WHICH THE AWARD IS MADE MUST HAVE REQUIRED TREATMENT BY A MEDICAL OFFICER AND RECORDS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR WOUNDS OR INJURIES RECEIVED IN ACTION MUST HAVE BEEN MADE A MATTER OF OFFICIAL RECORD.

ORIGINALLY CALLED THE BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT, THE PURPLE HEART WAS ESTABLISHED BY THEN GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON ON AUG. 7, 1782 DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. IT WAS THE FIRST AWARD MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMON SOLDIER. (INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART WEB SITE.)

AS OF THURSDAY, 1,502 AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND 11,069 HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.



Graphics courtesy of AFNEWS/NSPD





## MIGHTY MEDICS REPRESENT IN IRAQ

Airmen 1st Class Brian Lazarchick and Erica Adkins, members of the 90th Medical Group, stand outside a palace in Iraq. Currently deployed. Airman Lazarchick was awarded Airman of the Quarter after his first four weeks in Iraq.



Courtesy photo

## Malmstrom NCO's quick thinking helps save lives

**Maj. Laurie Arellano**  
341st Space Wing Public Affairs

**MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont.** – For Staff Sgt. John Rood, 819th RED HORSE Squadron, Feb. 5 is a day that will be remembered as one ordinary day punctuated with an extraordinary event.

Sergeant Rood was filling up his vehicle that typical Saturday afternoon at a gas station on 10th Avenue South when an unexpected chain of events began to happen around him.

"I saw a lady fueling her sport utility vehicle behind me," he said. "I had just finished fueling when I saw fire coming from the rear of her vehicle."

The sergeant said the woman appeared frozen with fear and had a shocked look on her face as he headed for the vehicle to help her.

"I was reaching to grab the nozzle out of the truck when I saw a child seat in the back, right over the fuel tank," Sergeant Rood said. "My first thought was to remove the source of the fire from the vehicle, which was also on fire."

The fuel nozzle became a big flame thrower as he pulled it out of the truck. He laid the nozzle and hose so the fire would flow away from the vehicle.

That action allowed the mother enough time to unstrap her child from the seat as Sergeant Rood went to activate the emergency shut off switch.

"Right after she pulled the child out, the vehicle exploded," Sergeant Rood said.

Mother and child escaped safely. The thick black smoke could be seen from some distance and flames from the blaze scorched the canopy

at the station.

"He was trying to do the right thing," said Steve Hester, Great Falls Fire Department assistant fire chief.

The assistant chief said Sergeant Rood's instinct to look for the emergency shut-off switch was the right course of action. In a situation like this, the best thing you can do is to get everyone away from the fire and activate that emergency shut-off switch, he added.

Sergeant Rood said he doesn't believe he did anything that any other citizen wouldn't have done.

"I just happened to be the one there at the time," he said.

Col. Robert Staib, 819th RED HORSE commander, credits training for Sergeant Rood's quick actions.

"He was doing what most RED HORSE guys do," Colonel Staib said. "You see a situation and take action."

## NASA Space Camp accepting scholarship applications

The 2005 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship is taking applications until April 1. Open to the children of active duty parents, the program is also open to the children of deployed guard or reserve members. The child must be a student currently enrolled in the sixth through ninth grade.

The student must submit the application plus an essay stating why he or she should be selected. The student must also submit two letters of recommendation from someone other than a relative.

The application is at [http://www.militarychild.org/PDF-2004/2005\\_application.pdf](http://www.militarychild.org/PDF-2004/2005_application.pdf).



# Family Matters

## AFAS donations keep family together in time of need

**Laura Hunt**  
*Sunburst copy editor*

**HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.** — When one Team Holloman member found out his 12-year-old daughter needed brain surgery at a hospital in Washington, D.C., he wanted his entire family to be together. However, his insurance company would only pay for his wife and daughter's travel, so he turned to the Air Force Aid Society for help.

Senior Airman Brett Newton, 49th Maintenance Squadron, said his wife, Lynette, and daughter, Rachel, were medically evacuated to Washington for the surgery Dec. 9. Airman Newton and his 9-year-old son, Derrick, would have to stay behind unless they could find money for plane tickets.

"My supervisor recommended that I go to the Air

Force Aid Society for assistance," Airman Newton said.

After filling out some paperwork at the family support center, the Air Force Aid Society gave Airman Newton a grant and booked his flight and rental car for him.

"They were a big help," Airman Newton said. "It took a lot of the stress off of us."

Family support also went out of its way to call its counterparts at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C., and Andrews AFB, Md., to make sure the Newtons would have everything they needed, Mrs. Newton said. Then the FSC donated toys for the children because the family had to stay in Washington over the Christmas holiday.

Mrs. Newton said that with her daughter's condition, keeping the family together was important.

"I know I couldn't have gone through everything



Photo by Senior Airman Vanessa LaBoy

**Senior Airman Newton turned to the Air Force Aid Society for a grant that would pay for his and his son's travel expenses to Washington D.C. where his daughter was getting surgery for a brain tumor.**

without my husband being there," Mrs. Newton said. "It's hard to put into words how much the Air Force Aid Society and the family support center helped us."

Airman Newton said the best thing about the AFAS is that Airmen are taking care of Airmen.

"The Air Force Aid Society will help out anybody that

needs it with either an interest-free loan or a grant," he said. "It's non-profit, so everything that you donate to them goes to fellow Airmen or NCOs who need the help."

6 by 6.5



# Intramural volleyball standings

	North			South	
319/320	5	0	20 AF 5	1	
LRS	2	1	321/400	4	1
MDG A	1	1	790	2	1
OSS	2	2	CS	3	2
MXS	1	2	CPTS	3	2
CE	0	11	MDG B	0	11

## Cheer training and dance clinic



Children ages five to 18 are invited to participate in the cheer training and dance clinic scheduled to be held March 26, 9 to 11:30 a.m. conducted by the University of Wyoming Cheerleaders and Wildfire Dance Team.

For more information, call 773-2564.

# Youth bowling weekly high scores

### Little Pee Wees - Ages 3-4

Callie O'Donnel	70 game
Zachary Bobenmayer	78 game

### Pee Wees - Ages 4-6

Madisyn Bails	86 game
Justus Rieger	86 game

### Bantam-Preps - Ages 7-11

Matthew Gray	501 high series handicap
Linzey Hurst	496 high series handicap
Kory Bond	184 high game handicap
Kawai Punahele	185 high game handicap

### Junior-Majors - Ages 12 -21

Erik Mitchell	668 high series handicap
Brittaney Thomas	593 high series handicap
Anthony Linde	263 high game handicap
Leah Anderson	227 high game handicap



# Woman changing America

## Outstanding female Airman enjoys helping others

Still in the midst of Women's History Month, Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey sat down with one of Warren's outstanding female Airmen, 21-year-old Airman 1st Class Rosemarie Ching, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron operations manager, to discuss her move from the other side of the world and dream assignments.

### What do you do at your job?

I provide customer service to base people. I process work order requests and building permits.

### What is your favorite part?

Helping out others because it's so nice when they're satisfied.

### What is your office environment like?

It's very friendly and calm. It's not stressful at all.

### How long have you been in?

Two years.

### How long have you been at Warren?

Two years in May.

### Why did you enlist?

[I enlisted] for school and education. I also wanted to be independent and travel.

### Do you have any regrets?

Nope. I would never have experienced these things. I'd never even have known that Wyoming existed.

### What is your dream assignment?

Andrews Air Force Base because all of my family is in Virginia and that's the closest base.

### What went through your mind when you found out you were coming here?

I was surprised. I had to look on a map to find out where it was. My recruiter told me that I'd be able to



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey

Airman 1st Class Rosemarie Ching, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, uses work orders to create a schedule on a magnetic white board Wednesday in Building 318.

go back to Virginia.

### What's the best compliment someone's given you about your work?

They've said that my work ethic is great.

### Where are you from originally?

I was born and raised in the Philippines. I moved to Virginia when I was 10.

### What was it like to move to a different hemisphere?

At first it was shocking ... then I began to like it.

### When was the last time you went back to the Philippines?

The last time was three years ago.

### What do you miss most about the Philippines?

My dad. I also miss the food

– maki. It's beef with sticky soup.

### What do you miss most about Virginia?

My mom, sister and brothers.

### Tell me about your family.

My older brother's in the Navy. He's the one who talked me into joining the Air Force. He's gotten to go to Diego Garcia and Japan. My sister is older and my other brother is younger.

### Where do you see yourself in five years?

Back in Virginia to finish school. After that I'd like to try to become an officer. If not, I hope I get a decent job with good pay.

### What do you think about the 0-0-1-3 Responsible Drinking Program?

It's cool because it teaches you to be more responsible. I've seen a lot of people who got caught drinking and driving and they've gotten kicked out.

That's so stupid.

### When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A basketball player.

### What did you do before you joined?

I worked at the concession stand at a movie theater in Virginia.

### What is your favorite TV show?

"The O.C." and "Smallville."

### What's the last movie you saw in the theater?

"Hitch." It was great. You'll laugh from the beginning to end.

### What do you do on your days off?

I work part time at Wal-Mart as a photo tech.



**Auto Skills Center special**

Get the first half hour diagnostic time free, saving \$26, at the Auto Skills Center during the month of March.

Call 773-3869 for an appointment.

**Texas Hold'em Poker**

Play Texas Hold'em Poker Mar. 12, 2 p.m. at the club.

All entrants receive 50 white, 25 red and 25 blue chips worth \$40,500. The top five players will receive AAFES gift certificates.

Blinds and antes announce at start of play. Blinds are to the left of dealer and rotate, as does the dealer.

Sign up by today for a discounted rate. The cost for members is \$15, and nonmembers \$20. Cost at the door will be \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers.

Must be at least 18 years old to play.

For more information, call the Trail's End Club at 773-3048.

**Ski Arapahoe Basin**

Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Arapahoe Basin Sunday. The trip includes transportation, lift ticket, tips and pointers for beginners, and ski or snowboard equipment.

The cost is \$55 for adults, \$39 for children ages 6 to 12, \$21 for children ages 5 and younger, and \$15 for liberty pass holders.

**Basic quilting class**

A basic quilting class is scheduled to begin March 15 and will be held every Tuesday for four weeks from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Multi Crafts Center. Students learn the basics and the quick strip methods will be used and will have four finished blocks at the end of the class.

They can be made into a wall hanging or saved to make a lap quilt with additional squares. Students need access to a sewing machine.

Mats, rotary cutters and rulers will be available for use.

For more information, call 773-3754.

**Youth baseball and tee-ball registration**

Youth baseball registration for kids ages 7 to 12 is now through March 18.

The cost is \$50 and includes team uniform and the use of equipment. Practice is scheduled to begin the first week of April.

All Warren teams are combined with other teams from the community to form the Cheyenne Jr. League.

Games are played on base as well as the Cheyenne Jr. League Complex located on the corner of Converse and Dell Range. Coaches are needed for all age groups. No experience required. Tee ball registration for kids ages 5 and 6 is going on now.

The cost is \$40 per child and includes uniform and awards. All baseball and tee ball participants and their family members are invited to

the post-season banquet in August.

For more information, call the Youth Center at 773-2564.

**Youth cheer and dance clinic**

Kids ages 5 through 18 are invited to participate in the Cheer Training and Dance Clinic March 26, 9 - 11:30 a.m. conducted by the University of Wyoming Cheerleaders and Wildfire Dance Team.

The cheer clinic will include stunts, pyramids, tumbling, cheers, jumps and sidelines.

The dance clinic will include skills, sidelines, choreography and dance. For more information, call 773-2564.

**Shopping trip to Flat Irons Mall**

Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Flat Irons Mall March 11.

Trip includes transportation. The cost is \$15 per person.

Call ODR at 773-2988 for more information.

**Snowshoe/Geocache Snowy Range trip**

Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to Snowshoe and Geocache Snowy Range March 13.

The trip includes transportation and a GPS. Bring water, sack lunch and layers of clothes. The cost is \$10 per person.

Call ODR at 773-2988 for more information.

**Spring Egg Hunt March 19**

The annual base egg hunt is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m., March 19 at the Youth Center.

Families are invited to stay following the spring egg hunt to visit the Easter Bunny and win door prizes.

For more information, call the Youth Center at 773-2564.

**CFD tickets**

Cheyenne Frontier Days tickets are now on sale for night shows and all rodeo performances.

For more information, call ODR at 773-2988.

6 by 6



# KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP SCHEDULE

## April 11-15, 2005

\* Kindergartners living on base should register at Corlett, 600 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Afflerbach .....	Thursday, April 14, 2005 .....	6:00 p.m.
Alta Vista .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	9:00 a.m.
Anderson .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Arp .....	Friday, April 15, 2005 .....	8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Baggs .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	3:30-7:00 p.m.
Bain .....	Thursday, April 14, 2005 .....	6:00 p.m.
Buffalo Ridge .....	Friday, April 15, 2005 .....	9:30 a.m.
Cole .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Corlett/Freedom .....	Wednesday April 6, 2005 .....	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Davis .....	Wednesday, April 13, 2005 ....	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Deming .....	Wednesday, April 13, 2005 ....	3:00 p.m.
Dildine .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Goins .....	Thursday, April 14, 2005 .....	6:45 p.m.
Hebard .....	Thursday, April 14, 2005 .....	2:00-5:00 p.m.
Henderson .....	Wednesday, April 14, 2005 ....	9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Hobbs .....	Wednesday, April 13, 2005 ....	6:00 p.m.
Jessup .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	6:00 p.m.
Lebhart .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Pioneer Park .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	1:30 p.m.
Rossmann .....	Monday April 11, 2005 .....	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Gilchrist .....	Tuesday, April 12, 2005 .....	1:00-2:00 p.m.

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

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